(b) whether Government are aware that DGS&D has finalised generalised specifications for personal computers and initiated the process of concluding the rate contract;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether DGS&D has concluded the rate contract for computers;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the year from which the rate contract would be applicable for purchase of personal computers by various Ministries/Departments;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) whether open tender system is a must for purchase of personal computers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) had issued an O.M. on 17th December, 1998.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The generalised specifications finalised are aimed at catering to the general requirement of the indenting Department/Offices.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. Rate Contracts are being regularly concluded since 15.12.1999.The last Rate Contract concluded was valid upto 8th July, 2003. Advertised Tenders for conclusion of fresh Rate Contracts are due for opening on 22.8.2003. Individual Central Government Departments can procure personal computers through DGS&D Rate Contracts without inviting tenders as per provisions under the General Financial Rules.

Coastal Special Economic Zone in Karnataka

2729. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought 'in principle' the approval for establishing coastal Special Economic Zone;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received by Government;

(c) the estimated cost of the above project; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) A

proposal for setting of a Special Economic zone at Baikampady by M/s. Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry at an estimated cost of Rs.710 crores was received through the Government of Karnataka on 7.7.2003. "In principle" approval has been granted to project by the Central Government on 8-8-200.

Allocation for women health programmes

2730. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocations for women's health programmes, State-wise; and

(b) the guidelines and effective steps taken to utilize the Central funds for the health services?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The national programmes and various schemes of the Department of Health are for the benefit of all the population including men and women. The schemes of Department of Family Welfare particularly focus on women and children. The State-wise allocation is made only for the schemes on infrastructure maintenance, through which family welfare services are delivered. The State-wise allocation for the year 2003-04 for infrastructure maintenance is given in the Statement enclosed. (See below).

Some of the specific schemes for women's health are National Maternity Benefit Schemes (NMBS), Supply of Dai Kits, Dai Training, 24 Hour Delivery, Operationalising First Referral Units (FRUs) for Emergency Obstetric & Neo-natal Care, etc. No State-wise allocation is made for these schemes and the releases are made on the basis of the projected requirements.

(b) States are frequently advised to utilise the funds only for the approved components of the schemes, keep proper records of expendture, not to divert funds to other schemes, and to submit utilization certificate/audited statement of expenditure for the funds released.